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May 21, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name.

MOTION THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SEND A LETTER TO GOVERNOR BROWN AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, RECOMMENDING ALTERNATIVES TO THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF MOST SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 (ITEM NO. 32-A, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF MAY 22, 2012)

Item No. 32-A on the May 22, 2012 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas recommending that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to Governor Brown and the Los Angeles County's legislative delegation recommending the following alternative to the Governor's budget proposal regarding the administration of subsidized child development services:

- Rather than moving subsidized child development services out of the California Department of Education (CDE) to county welfare agencies, CDE be charged to streamline the subsidized child development system, including but not limited to: 1) consolidating similar contracts; 2) amending contracts to include more focus on performance; 3) structuring contracts to maximize the use of State, Federal and local resources; 4) simplifying eligibility and reimbursement determinations; and 5) facilitating the articulation between child development and the K-12 system.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- Any statutory changes needed to streamline the administration of subsidized child development services should be enacted in a timely manner to minimize disruption in care.

Background

Child care and development programs are State and federally funded programs administered by the CDE to provide services for children from birth through 12 years of age. Services are provided by various public and private agencies and local educational agencies via contracts with CDE. Based on data provided by CDE, in FY 2009-10, the Department administered approximately 1,420 service contracts with nearly 770 public and private agencies providing services to 489,200 children. CDE also administers CalWORKs Stage 2 and Stage 3 child care through its Alternative Payment Programs. CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care is administered by the California Department of Social Services through county welfare departments. In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) contracts with the local Alternative Payment Programs to provide CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care services.

Governor's Budget Proposal

The Governor's Budget proposes various changes and reductions to subsidized child care programs for a State General Fund savings of \$452.5 million which would result in the elimination of 29,600 child care slots statewide. The Governor's proposal includes shifting the administration of child care and development programs from CDE to county welfare departments beginning in FY 2013-14. The Administration proposes to establish a County Child Care Block grant separate from the CalWORKs Single Allocation to ensure low-income, working families continue to have access to child care services. Each county would be required to develop a plan consistent with State and Federal law that describes how the county intends to deliver the full range of subsidized child care as of July 1, 2013.

Comments

According to the Department of Public Social Services, if the Governor's proposed restructure of CalWORKs and Child Care Programs are enacted, the proposed reductions to child care reimbursement rates would result in a reduction to the County's CalWORKs Single Allocation for CalWORKs Stage One Child Care in FY 2012-13. DPSS notes that the cut to child care would be on top of other cuts to CalWORKs eligibility, welfare-to-work employment services and cash grants assistance.

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The Department of Public Social Services further indicates that the impact to the County as a result of moving the administration of child care programs from CDE to counties is unknown at this time.

According to the Chief Executive Office, Office of Child Care, the Governor's proposal would jeopardize the system of child care and development serving children (infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school age children up to 13 years old) that is currently required to meet Title 5 standards of the California Education Code. Title 5 standards are substantially higher than the health and safety standards required by licensing under Title 22. Under Title 5, centers holding contracts with the CDE are required to meet quality standards relating to staff qualifications, staff to child ratios, programmatic standards and parent engagement.

Furthermore, the proposal for administrative restructuring is compounded by the Governor's cuts to child care and development for FY 2012-13. The Office of Child Care states that the recommendations included in the motion would streamline the child care and development system while ensuring that low-income families continue to have access to high quality services that promote children's healthy growth and development and support families reaching economic self-sufficiency.

Conclusion

Support for this motion is consistent with existing Board policy to support efforts to: 1) adequately fund high-quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families, and 2) streamline administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of child care and development funding to meet the needs of families.

WTF:RA
MR:IGEA:sb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel